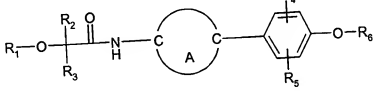
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): N-aryl-cycloalkylidenyl-α-hydroxy- and α-alkoxy acetic acid amides of the general formula I



(I)

including the optical isomers thereof and mixtures of such isomers, wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl; C_2-C_{12}alkenyl; C_2-C_{12}alkynyl; or C_1-C_{12}haloalkyl;

R_2 is hydrogen;C_1-C_4alkyl; C_1-C_4haloalkyl; C_2-C_5alkenyl or C_2-C_5alkynyl;

R_3 is aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted with substituents selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4alkyl, phenyl and phenylC_1-C_4alkyl, where all these groups may be substituted with one or more halogen atoms; C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_3-C_8alkenyloxy; C_3-C_8alkynyloxy; C_1-C_8alkoxy-C_1-C_4alkyl; C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8alkylthio; C_1-C_8haloalkylthio, C_1-C_8alkylsulfonyl; formyl; C_1-C_8alkanoyl; hydroxy; cyano; nitro; amino; C_1-C_8alkylamino; C_1-C_8dialkylamino; carboxyl; C_1-C_8alkoxycarbonyl; C_3-C_8alkenyloxycarbonyl and C_3-C_8alkynyloxycarbonyl; or

A is a 1,2-cyclohexylidene or 1,2-cyclopropylidene bridge,

R_4 is hydrogen C_1-C_8alkyl; C_2-C_8alkenyl; C_2-C_8alkynyl; C_3-C_8cycloalkyl; C_3-C_8cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4alkyl; C_1-C_8alkylthio; C_1-C_8alkylsulfonyl; C_1-C_8alkoxy; C_3-C_8alkenyloxy; C_3-C_8alkynyloxy; C_3-C_8cycloalkoxy; C_1-C_8alkoxy-C_1-C_4alkyl; C_1-C_8alkoxycarbonyl; C_3-C_8alkenyloxycarbonyl; C_3-C_8alkynyloxycarbonyl; C_1-C_8alkanoyl; C_1-C_8dialkylamino or C_1-C_8alkylamino, wherein in turn the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl moieties may be partially or fully halogenated; or is carboxyl; formyl; halogen; nitro; cyano; hydroxy or amino; and

R_5 is hydrogen; C_1-C_8alkyl; C_2-C_8alkenyl; C_2-C_8alkynyl; C_3-C_8cycloalkyl; C_3-C_8cycloalkyl-C_1-C_4alkyl; C_1-C_8alkylthio; C_1-C_8alkylsulfonyl; C_1-C_8alkoxy; C_3-C_8alkenyloxy; C_3-C_8alkynyloxy; C_3-C_8cycloalkoxy; C_1-C_8alkoxy-C_1-C_4alkyl; C_1-C_8alkoxycarbonyl; C_3-C_8alkenyloxycarbonyl; C_3-C_8alkynyloxycarbonyl; C_1-C_8alkanoyl; C_1-C_8dialkylamino or C_1-C_8alkylamino, wherein in turn the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl moieties may be partially or fully halogenated; or is carboxyl; formyl; halogen; nitro; cyano; hydroxy or amino; and

R_6 is propargyl.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is hydrogen.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended): A compound according to [~~claims 1 or 2~~] claim 1, wherein R_4 is hydrogen; C_1-C_8alkyl; C_1-C_8haloalkyl; C_2-C_8alkenyl; C_2-C_8alkynyl; C_1-C_8alkylthio; C_1-C_8haloalkylthio; C_1-C_8alkoxy; C_1-C_8haloalkoxy; C_1-C_8alkoxy-C_1-C_4alkyl; C_1-C_8alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_8alkanoyl; formyl; halogen; nitro; cyano or hydroxy; and R_5 is hydrogen; C_1-C_4alkyl; C_1-C_4haloalkyl; C_1-C_4alkoxy; C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_4alkanoyl; formyl; halogen; cyano or hydroxy; and R_6 is propargyl.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended): A compound according to [~~any of claims 1 to 3~~] claim 1, wherein R_1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, or C_2-C_5alkynyl; and R_2 is hydrogen and R_3 is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_1-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8haloalkoxy, C_1-C_8haloalkylthio, halogen, nitro or cyano; and A is 1,2-cyclohexylidene or 1,2-cyclopropylidene, and R_4 is hydrogen; C_1-C_4alkyl; C_1-C_4alkoxy; C_1-C_4haloalkoxy or halogen; and R_5 is hydrogen; C_1-C_4alkyl; halogen or cyano; and R_6 is propargyl.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): A compound according to [~~any of claims 1 to 4~~] claim 1, wherein R_1 is hydrogen or C_2-C_5alkynyl; and R_2 is hydrogen and R_3 is phenyl; C_1-$_4$alkylphenyl or halophenyl; and A is 1,2-cyclohexylidene or 1,2-cyclopropylidene; and R_4 is hydrogen; methoxy or ethoxy; and R_5 is hydrogen; and R_6 is propargyl.

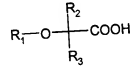
Claim 6. (Currently Amended): A compound according to [~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~] claim 1, wherein R_1 is hydrogen or propargyl; and R_2 is hydrogen; and R_3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one to two substituents selected from the group comprising methyl, ethyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethylthio or trifluoromethoxy; and A is 1,2-cyclohexylidene; and R_4 is hydrogen or methoxy; and R_5 is hydrogen; and R_6 is propargyl.

Claim 7. (Cancelled).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended): A compound according to [~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~] claim 1, wherein R_1 is propargyl; and R_2 is hydrogen; and R_3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one to two substituents selected from the group [~~comprising~~] consisting of fluoro, chloro and bromo, or is phenyl optionally substituted by one substituent selected from the group comprising methyl, ethyl, methoxy, phenyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethylthio [~~or~~] and trifluoromethoxy; and A is 1,2-cyclohexylidene; and R_4 is hydrogen or methoxy; and R_5 is hydrogen; and R_6 is propargyl.

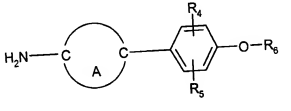
Claim 9. (Original): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group comprising 2-hydroxy-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-phenyl-acetamide, 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-acetamide,
2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-acetamide,
2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-acetamide,
N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-phenyl-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetamide, 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetamide,
2-(4-bromophenyl)-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetamide, and
2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetamide.

Claim 10. (Original): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, which comprises reacting an α-hydroxy- or α-alkoxy acid of formula II



(II)

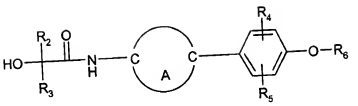
wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are as defined for formula I, or a carboxyl-activated derivative of the acid of formula II , is reacted with an amine of formula III wherein A, R_4, R_5 and R_6, are as defined for formula I, with an amine of formula III



(III)

wherein A, R_4, R_5 and R_6, are as defined for formula I.

Claim 11. (Original): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I wherein R_1 is as defined in claim 1 with the exception of hydrogen, which process comprises reacting an α-hydroxy acid derivative of formula Ia



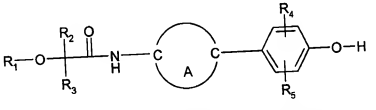
(Ia)

wherein A, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5 and R_6 are as defined for formula I, with an alkyl-, alkenyl- or alkynylhalide of formula IV

(IV)

wherein R_1 is as defined for formula I , with the exception of hydrogen, and where X is a leaving group like a halide such as a chloride or bromide, or a sulfonic ester such as a tosylate, mesylate or triflate.

Claim 12. (Original): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I wherein R_6 is as defined in claim 1 with the exception of hydrogen, which process comprises reacting a phenol of formula Ib



(Ib)

where A, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, and R_5 are as defined for formula I, with a compound of formula V

(V)

where R_6 is as defined for formula I but is not hydrogen and where Y is a leaving group like a halide such as a chloride or bromide or a sulfonic ester such as a tosylate, mesylate or triflate.

Claim 13. (Original): A composition for controlling and protecting against phytopathogenic microorganisms, comprising a compound of formula I according to claim 1 as active ingredient together with a suitable carrier.

Claim 14. (Cancelled).

Claim 15. (Original): A method of controlling and preventing an infestation of crop plants by phytopathogenic microorganisms, preferably fungal organisms, which comprises the application of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 as active ingredient to the plant, to parts of plants or to the locus thereof.